

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 is amended and claims 2, 3 and 6-8 are canceled, leaving claims 1, 4 and 5 pending with claim 1 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2, 3 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spaulding et al. (U.S. 5,337,919) in view of Gerold et al. (U.S. 7,210,598).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to generally include the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 3.

Therefore, since, as stated above, the Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Shoji YUYAMA et al.

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

By: 2009.02.12 12:15:02 -05'00'

Jeffrey J. Howell

Registration No. 46,402

Attorney for Applicants

JJH/CRW/kh

Washington, D.C. 20006-1021

Telephone (202) 721-8200

Facsimile (202) 721-8250

February 12, 2009